



Inside this Issue

Congratulations ERP winners !!!



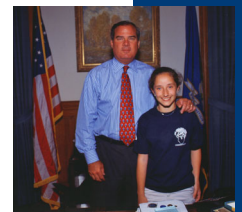
Remarkable Innovation



Team Excellence



Jeanne and Ray
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Budding Author
8

Customer Service



Mary Gugliemino, Dave Krayeski, Shari Gryzb, Lina Simonu, Sue Turko and Cheryl Catania, missing is Dave Lynn.

Going the Extra Mile



Tina Costanzo

(above left)
Heather Tweeddale, Patsy McLaughlin, Carla Kushin, Carla Martin, Lois Johnson, missing is Diane Fitzpatrick

(above right)
Julie Ahlstrin, Susan Bolduc, Michelle Olesen, Denise DellaVentura, Susan Castagna, Paul Przygocki, Lorna Barclay, Lori Riley, Glenda Rollins, Donna Wadhams, Peter Pappas, Franky Rivera, missing are Kevin Nodwell and William Hickey.

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Ray and Jeanne

By **Nina Ritson**

As you all know, Jeanne Gray donated a kidney to Ray Bailey who had been suffering from chronic kidney disease for many years.

Since the surgery on May 20 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, both are well on the road to recovery. Jeanne and Ray were not only close friends, they were a perfect donor match, and after a shorter than anticipated surgery, the kidney started working immediately.

Ray is doing extremely well. He is now out of the hospital and living temporarily at a condominium close to Johns Hopkins.

"I feel better than I have felt in a long time. I am walking up to two miles per day now," he said happily.

Now back home in Connecticut, Jeanne's recovery took longer than she had anticipated, but she is doing OK. Her husband stayed right by her side since the day they left home.

"I am so happy to see how healthy Ray was after the operation. I have no regrets; it was everything I had hoped it would be," Jeanne reported to friend and DAS co-worker Dale Greenwood.

Ray spoke softly as he described how thankful and taken he was by the donations of time and money from his fellow DAS employees. Collectively, the DAS family donated nearly 13 weeks of time.

In case you wanted to send a card to Ray, he will be in Maryland until the end of July at:

Raymond Bailey
Cambridge Court
50 Attenborough Court #304
White Marsh, Maryland
21237

Cards to Jeanne may be forwarded through Dale Greenwood in Room 411.

Both Jeanne and Ray are optimistic they will return to work by late summer.

THIS JUST IN!!

June 24 Email from Ray:

Hello everyone, it's Raymond finally able to write and tell you all what a miracle the last two months



Ray and Jeanne in May prior to the surgery.

have been. Thank you all for the cards, letters and well wishes which have helped to uplift us through this time. I miss you all very much and can't wait to see you guys. Jeanne and I are eternally grateful for all your support.

**GOD BLESS YOU
AND THANKS
RAY**

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Visit our website at
www.das.state.ct.us

got stuff?

Stuff. It does a budget good.

Randolph Scott of Douglas Cutler Architects had words of praise for **Mark Carroza**. "I called to inquire about the status of our SBE application. Mr. Carroza was very polite, professional and helpful in assisting us track down the application. We needed this information quickly. Mr. Carroza quickly responded to our request and faxed us the certificate we required. You should be proud of

hats off

By **Donna Micklus**

the effort and professionalism put forth by staff members such as Mr. Carroza. He is an asset to your organization."

Carol Wilson complimented **Linda LoSchiavo** for extending two contracts for Court Reporting/Transcription Services. Both contractors have lowered their pricing for one item on each of their contracts with a combined savings of \$4,846 a year, representing a 10% savings from last year.

Billy Skyrme recently received the following message from laid-off state employee Catherine Rafferty: "The information on your web site regarding Re-employment Sebac Information has been very helpful and informative. I recently e-mailed my request to be considered for SEBAC rights for Office Assistant and this morning when I checked my personal information I found that my request had been granted and I just wanted to say thank you for your quick response."

Diane Fitzpatrick singled out **Keith Anderson** for his work on job fairs. "I just thought you should all know that

Keith has done a great job managing all these job fairs. The unions, state agencies and laid-off employees have been very impressed with how organized and how helpful DAS has been through these processes."

Michele Joyce from the Community Colleges voiced her appreciation to **Heather Tweeddale**. "This is to thank you for your prompt attention to the clerical refill package that I submitted last week. The President and Deans were most impressed with your expeditious response! As usual, it is a pleasure doing business with you. We in the community colleges are fortunate to have you as our liaison. Thanks again."

Nan Peckham from the Office of Pollution Prevention at DEP wrote of the "excellent service we recently received from the print shop staff, **Mike Guimond, Alex Caceres and Roy Wynne**. DEP... and the Department of Public Health are involved in a joint project that involves mailing 9,000 health care practitioners information about mercury. It involved printing of six separate items. Since we don't do large jobs like this very often, Mike guided us through the process. He worked with the brochure designer to make sure the negatives were produced correctly and assisted us in choosing ink colors that would complement the design. We also wanted the materials printed on recycled stock, so Mike picked out papers and envelopes that had the recycled content we required. The brochures, booklets and letters that were produced from the print shop were high quality and looked great. It was a pleasure working with all of them. I hope that in some way the staff can be recognized for their good work. Thank you."

From Carol Wilson: "I want to take a moment to let you know what a

superb job **Scott Benson** has done on preparing the procurement database for the PeopleSoft contract interface. Scott has spent countless hours learning our business process, learning the PS needs, articulating the intended changes and making the changes transparent to our daily business. Today we came to closure, and trained all of the contracting staff on the new fields in the database, and all to his credit, this went flawlessly. We would not be ready for the contract piece of PeopleSoft if it weren't for Scott and his dedication to the task. A huge thank you is in order for all his efforts. Scott, Thanks again!"

From Pam Nelson at DMR to **Carol Wilson**:

I wanted to take a moment to thank you and your staff for the excellent purchasing overview they presented to DMR staff. One of the regional business managers requested assistance as we had lost so many purchasing staff to layoffs and early retirements. Carol Wilson and several of her colleagues put together a great session for about 30 of us on June 11th. It was really wonderful and so helpful and gave us a lot more confidence as we approach new tasks and lean times. They exemplified "customer friendly" and we benefited!!! Please let staff know how much we appreciated their willingness to help us. Thanks again."

Mark Aronowitz complimented **Joann Bellamo** on all the Core-CT related help she provided to the Payable area of the Office of the Comptroller.

got stuff?

Casella's Furniture Contract Leads By Example

By Adam Liegeot

Though you won't hear him shouting "Come on down!" the way a certain discount furniture personality does on TV commercials, Don Casella has reason to shout these days.

With a recently posted multi-million dollar furniture contract, Casella and DAS Procurement Services have once again set a great example for the entire agency by achieving savings and providing customers with more flexibility at the same time.

In fact, over the course of the new five-year contract, it is estimated that DAS will save over \$5.7 million.

By researching the discounts the major manufacturers provide to other states and asking those manufacturers if they could "do better" in providing comparable discounts off the list

prices for Connecticut, Casella was able to generate an average savings of over \$1 million a year.

The new contract resulted in a 54% average discount across the board, compared to a 47% average discount on the old contract.

By focusing more on dealing directly with manufacturers and using Microsoft Excel spreadsheets to track prices, Casella was able to save additional dollars and simplify the procurement process.

The contract is available to all state agencies, municipalities, and non-profit agencies.

It is anticipated that due to the recent budgetary issues, more and more customers will be choosing this option as a means of procuring furniture in the future.

"Don did an awesome job on this contract," Tina Costanzo said. "This new contract saves us significant dollars, and it also makes so much more sense. We've re-engineered the way in which the state contracts

victories

for furniture, and Don is playing a major role in that effort."

Saving the state big money is no small feat, but there is no word yet whether Casella will hit the airwaves to tout the new furniture contract.

As that TV furniture guy would say, "I doubt it!"

Postponed...now we can collect more stuff !

Ma Bell's
got stuff?

If you've got stuff
to get rid of contact
Dan Sadowski
at 713-5134.



Stuff it does a budget good.



Alan Mazzola's
got stuff?

And he's getting rid of it! DAS Deputy Commissioner Alan Mazzola is turning in an underused Xerox copier. If we don't need it, we're getting rid of it.

If you've got stuff to get rid of, contact Dan Sadowski at 713-5134.

Stuff.
It does a budget good.

Martin Anderson's

got stuff?



If you've got stuff
to get rid of contact
Dan Sadowski
at 713-5134.

Stuff. It does a budget good.

It all happens July 2, 2003.

Scouting Report

By John McKay

“She does it all,” said coworker Mayme Casady. “She’s just one of those women who does it all.”

She’s talking about her friend and coworker, FSC’s Lee Ann Rosborg.

“It’s a pretty busy life,” admits Rosborg.

When she’s not a Reimbursement Analyst working 40 hours a week here at DAS, she’s a busy mother of three. “And to add to the fun, I’m a Girl Scout leader for one of my daughter’s unit,” she said.

Rosborg’s been a Girl Scout leader for two years with 17 girls (ages 6

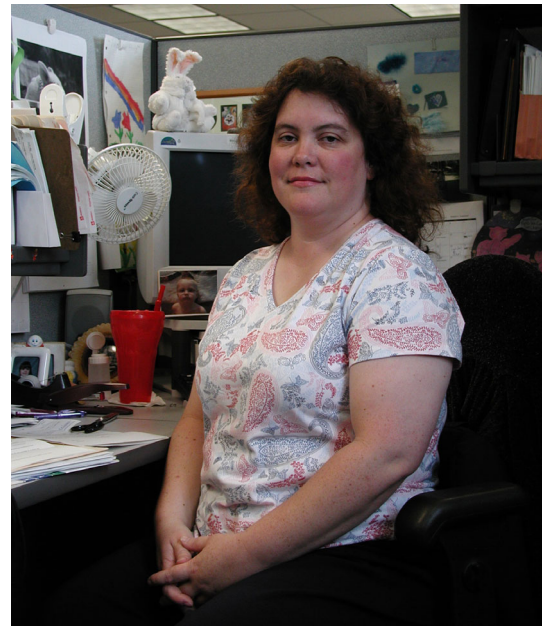
good. I’ve begun to forget how to cook because I’m so out of practice,” she joked.

How either of them has time to handle it all is a crash course in time management.

On top of everything going on in their daily lives, the Rosborgs have done some major remodeling to their home.

“We’ve added back and front dormers to our house and just finished adding on a front porch.

“Charlie is really handy and we’ve done most of the work ourselves. That was my Mother’s Day present. We hammered and nailed ourselves together a beautiful front porch. Hey, when



Above: FSC’s LeeAnn Rosborg

up close

and 7) and recently came back from a sleepover at Camp Laurel in Lebanon.

“I don’t know if using the word ‘sleep’ would be appropriate,” she joked. “The girls didn’t stop talking until 1:00 a.m.” She explained the two days consisted of a nature hike, making friendship bracelets and other activities so the girls could earn their patches. “It’s a lot of work, but it’s worth it.”

How does she manage all of this and maintain some semblance of order at her home?

After the birth of son Braden, it made sense for her husband Charlie to stay home with the kids.

“It’s really been great,” said Rosborg, “The kids have really bonded with him in a way I never imagined,” she said. “He does an amazing job with them. Maybe too



Below: The Rosborg kids (from left to right) Kelsey, Braden, and Haley pose in their go cart.

you’ve got the time, use it!” she said.

And even with all these projects and activities, the Rosborgs still have time to entertain their kids.

“With three kids they always have a playmate, but we try to do as much as we can with them.”

They camp at Jelly Stone National Park in Massachusetts, and keep them busy with crafts.

“One of our favorite things to do is race go carts around our property,” said Rosborg.

“We have two motor-powered go carts that the kids race around in.

And with this being such a rainy spring, they have come back muddy from head to toe. The looks on their faces are priceless. I wouldn’t have it any other way,” she said smiling.

got stuff?

ERP Committee announces "DAS idols"

By Donna Micklus

Amidst the sounds of a jack hammer and lawn mower telling us that summer is here after all, Cheryl Sawina opened the Employee Recognition Ceremony.

"We received 23 nominations, spread out across the agency, for this round which is a record," Sawina said.

"Some teams were nominated for more than one category," she added. "This shows that we are really pulling together behind the ERP program and that folks understand that it is really important."

Sawina also asked that Jeff Lecce, who passed away last week, be remembered.

"Jeff was one of the originators and first chairman of the ERP program, and we will always think of him with great fondness. Our thoughts are with his family," she said.

Before introducing the winners, Sawina thanked committee members who received an enthusiastic round of applause: Nancy Jones, Anna Tara, Don Casella, Linda Shakett-Blue, and Laura McNelly.

After a cookout of hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken and salads on the porch of the historic Solomon Welles House in Olde Wethersfield, it was time for the honorees' day in the sun.

Team Excellence - The Probate Team: Donna Wadhams, William Hickey, Susan Bolduc, Peter Pappas, Paul Przygocki, Lori Riley, Denise Della Ventura, Kevin Nodwell, Michelle Olesen, Lorna Barclay, Susan Castagna, Francisco Rivera, Julie Ahlstrin, Glenda Rollins. According to the nominator, they have one of the hardest jobs at DAS, making statutory claims on decedent estates. They have to know statutes and how to defend

them to recover the maximum liability. They have to work with the courts, attorneys, and the AG's office to make sure the final accounting is accurate and protect the state's claim.

Customer Service:

Dave Lynn, Cheryl

Catania, Mary

Gugliemino, Lina

Simonu, Susan Turko,

Shari Grzyb. With the

announcement of the ERIP, they worked to give demonstrations to almost 100 people on retirement benefits, individually counseled employees on their specific benefits and again met with employees after the entire retirement package was complete. The level of service that had to be demonstrated in a short period of time was truly significant. They worked very hard to insure people confronted with this serious decision were given all the time and information they needed to make that decision.

Remarkable Innovation: Heather

Tweeddale, Diane Fitzpatrick, Carla

Kushin, Patsy McLaughlin, Lois

Johnson, and Carla Martin. This

team created the Virtual Career Counseling program for nursing on the DAS website, designing the entire project from start to finish. This is the first time this concept has been used, and it will be rolled out for other in-demand careers as well. The team worked hard to develop a program that was both informational and effective, while also addressing the critical issue of the nursing shortage.

Going the Extra Mile: Tina

Costanzo. According to the nominator, although she is a Contract Team Leader, you can often see her wear-



ERP Committee members: Laura McNelly, Linda Shackett-Blue, Nancy Jones, Don Casella, Cheryl Sawina and Anna Tara.

ing different hats: mentor, leader, consultant. One of her greatest attributes is her unselfishness when she shares her knowledge, skills and abilities with anyone that seeks them. The most beautiful thing about her going the extra mile is that she does it quietly, trying to call the least attention to herself. Reality is that most of us know her as the guru of Procurement.

Commissioner Waters thanked families and friends for coming to share this special time.

"This is one of my favorite days when people who do good work get recognized for the good work they do," she said.

Waters also invoked Jeff Lecce's memory, "Our hearts are with his family. Somehow I can't help but think Jeff had something to do with giving us this beautiful day. God bless, you Jeff."

Following Governor Rowland's lead at the Governor's Service Award ceremonies, Waters concluded the ceremony by giving the winners the rest of the afternoon off...and received thunderous applause.

Key role for DAS in new legislation

By Adam Liegeot

An Act Concerning State Construction Projects" was recently signed into law by Governor John G. Rowland. While the law will not go into effect for a year or more, it will affect DAS on many levels.

Among the law's many provisions are the following:

- contractors will be required to prequalify to bid on public building construction contracts estimated to cost more than \$500,000
- advertisements will be required for bids on these contracts, and they must include the financial capacity, prior experience, and workforce required to do the job
- state agencies will be required to evaluate contractors after construction is completed and the DAS commissioner must place the evaluation

in the contractor's prequalification file

- state officials and employees will be prohibited from accepting gifts from prequalified building contractors
- employees with decision-making authority will be prohibited from communicating with bidders on building construction contracts under certain circumstances
- the DOT commissioner will be required to award large building construction contracts to the lowest responsible qualified bidder who is prequalified by DAS

The law requires that each bid on the affected large contracts include a copy of a prequalification statement from the DAS commissioner showing that the bidder has the prequalification classification and aggregate work capacity ratings required under the contract. The bid must also have an update statement in the form the commissioner prescribes. Any bid submitted without these documents is invalid.

At the end of the bidding process, the law requires the bidder to certify that (1) the bid information is true; (2) there were no substantial changes in his financial position or corporate

structure since his most recent prequalification certificate was issued or renewed, and (3) he made the bid without fraud or collusion with anyone.

Contractors, but not subcontractors, can seek prequalification to work on any state or municipal construction project by submitting an application to DAS along with a nonrefundable fee. The applicant must include in the application a statement of financial condition.

The bill requires the commissioner to revoke a contractor's prequalification if she finds that he (1) included materially false statements in his application or update statement, (2) has been convicted of a crime related to the procurement or performance of any public or private construction contract, or (3) has otherwise engaged in fraud in obtaining or maintaining prequalification within the past five years.

The provisions permitting contractors to prequalify with DAS are effective July 1, 2004 while most other provisions in the bill take effect beginning October 1, 2004.

Focus on the

- Project plans are due by the end of June
- Matt Shea has created a data base on DAS Central - great job, Matt!
- The first report out date is July 10

"The Governor is very much engaged in this initiative and is looking for ways that all agencies can save money through spending reductions and revenue generation," Commissioner Waters said. "So keep in mind that when you are rolling out your projects, we want to link hard dollar savings at the end of the year," she emphasized.

big8



...our strength is in our differences **By Maureen Friedman**

Happenings

Because of the success of the Diversity Council screening of "Understanding the Divide", a CPTV documentary that chronicled the lives of ten local people with their personal stories about diversity in Connecticut, the Diversity Council plans to host additional diversity related presentations in the future.

The council is currently reviewing materials and videos to prepare our next quality diversity event for you! Stay tuned for up-to-date information on the next "Diversity Happening"!

The Diversity Council is here for you, so it is critical that you communicate to us what you would like the council to provide to promote diversity in the workplace.

Do you have any ideas or suggestions for us? Please, take some time to think about it and send your comments to Isabelle McKinney at isabelle.mckinney@po.state.ct.us

Your Diversity Council thanks you!

Another JK Rowlings?

***Henry Jovanelly
wouldn't mind a bit!***

Henry's daughter, Alyce Jovanelly, was recognized as the statewide winner of the Scenario Writing competition for the sixth grade.

The competition required that each participant provide a short story about a scenario that was 25 years in the future. Alyce's story base was sports medicine, and titled "Batter Up".

Alyce was invited to participate in the international competition at UConn in early June. She teamed with two other students she had never met before. The story they created, about world wide communications, was awarded third prize internationally.

Keep an eye on the *New York Times* Best Seller List for her next creation !!



Alyce Jovanelly and Governor John G. Rowland on May 30, 2003 in the Governor's Office.

Financials Going Live Despite Oracle Takeover Bid

By Cathy Daly and John McKay



For business offices in state agencies, July 8 will bring a revolution. That's when Core-CT will go live for the first time. The new system, more than two years in development and testing, will replace not only hardware and software, but also old ways of doing business.

"It will change not just the way we talk about business office operations, but also the very way we think about them in state government," said Cathy Daly who sits on the Project Management Team.

Enhanced productivity, streamlined business processes and elimination of redundant systems are among the goals of Core-CT (see "How Will Core-CT Improve How the State Works?" at <http://www.core-ct.state.ct.us/coreuser/improve.htm>).

"A major goal of the state's fiscal efforts — to report accurately across state agency lines in terms that mean the same things in all agencies — will be much closer to reality than ever before," Daly said.

But as the late Gilda Radner said, "There's always something."

Enter Oracle.

The state has invested about \$80 million of its projected \$110 million in Core-CT, which has been two years in the making and still a work in progress. No wonder officials are worried about protecting that investment as Oracle threatens a takeover of PeopleSoft, Inc., the company whose software the state purchased to upgrade and integrate its human resources and financial computer systems.

On June 18, Connecticut filed a federal lawsuit to block Oracle's hostile takeover bid, citing a violation of state and federal antitrust laws. There are reports that Oracle plans to discontinue the PeopleSoft product line, meaning the state and other customers would have to buy new software or migrate to Oracle applications.

"We could be forced to spend millions of dollars to retool our system, and that would be at the expense of the taxpayers," said Governor John G. Rowland.

PeopleSoft's Board of Directors has already rebuffed the offer, forcing Oracle to go directly to the shareholders. A vote of PeopleSoft shareholders is scheduled for July 7.

In the interim, CoreCT is continuing on course.

What are some of the major changes that state government's business office staffs will see starting July 8?

- Terms will be different. An invoice will become a voucher, and agencies will no longer use a CO-17 to routinely pay an invoice. Audit Releasing will be a combination of budget checking and voucher approval. Posting (in SAAAS) will become budget check in Core-CT.

- Approvals will be online and not on paper.

"At first, not all agencies will be completely up to speed on this workflow method of processing. But the days of large stacks of paper waiting for signatures are ending," Daly added.

Daly said the benefits to this are obvious. The state will need to buy fewer paper forms. Manually com-

pleted forms can have errors and can be unreadable. Forms will be changed or eliminated outright.

"Again, it will involve a learning curve if not a culture change, away from paper and toward electronic workflow and storage of records," she added.

- Core-CT will be accessible only by a web browser.

"Without Internet or intranet access, you will not be able to do your job. Navigation in the system will be browser-based. Those unfamiliar with the web will find themselves getting used to a new way of moving around their screens. In fact, we will not call them 'screens' anymore but 'pages,'" Daly explained.

- Contracts, and the financial reporting around contracts, will be standardized.

"When a central agency such as OSC or OPM needs information

about spending in a particular program, they will be able to look up that figure on-line, rather than having to contact the agency that administers the program, as they had to do under the old system. What they find will have a much greater level of accuracy," Daly said.

- Agency budgets will be entered into Core-CT at a detailed level. Agencies have myriad budget systems that they have been using in myriad ways. OPM's Automated Budget System for budget preparation will remain in place. However, once a budget is set, all agencies will have a uniform way of accounting against their budgets.

- Purchasing paperwork will be greatly reduced or eliminated.

- Inter-unit transfers can be entirely electronic, replacing the current paper-based process.